

**From:** [Damberg, Doug](#)  
**To:** [Mitch Ellis](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notes from Embassy Canada's ANWR Event  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2017 3:01:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [ANWR Nov 7 Panel Notes.docx](#)

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FYI

Doug Damberg  
Refuge Supervisor, AK North Zone  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Rd.; Anchorage, AK 99503  
Office: (907) 786-3329  
Cell: (907) 947-6302

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From: **Close, Ryan** <[ryan\\_close@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ryan_close@ios.doi.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Nov 7, 2017 at 12:49 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Notes from Embassy Canada's ANWR Event  
To: Doug Damberg <[doug\\_damberg@fws.gov](mailto:doug_damberg@fws.gov)>, Gilbert Castellanos <[Gilbert\\_Castellanos@fws.gov](mailto:Gilbert_Castellanos@fws.gov)>

FYI

[Ryan Close](#)  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 208-3004  
[www.doi.gov/intl](http://www.doi.gov/intl)

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From: **Murray (Awad), Miriam L** <[AwadML@state.gov](mailto:AwadML@state.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Nov 7, 2017 at 2:49 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Notes from Embassy Canada's ANWR Event  
To: Ryan Close <[ryan\\_close@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ryan_close@ios.doi.gov)>, OES-OPA-Arctic <[OES-OPA-Arctic@state.gov](mailto:OES-OPA-Arctic@state.gov)>, Ottawa – ESTH <[Ottawa-ESTH@state.gov](mailto:Ottawa-ESTH@state.gov)>, WHA-CAN-Internal <[WHACANInternal@state.gov](mailto:WHACANInternal@state.gov)>, "Swiney, Gabriel" <[SwineyG@state.gov](mailto:SwineyG@state.gov)>, "Phelps, Elizabeth (OES)" <[PhelpsE@state.gov](mailto:PhelpsE@state.gov)>, "Lee, Marcus D" <[LeeMD@state.gov](mailto:LeeMD@state.gov)>, "Maniscalco, Danielle A" <[ManiscalcoDA@state.gov](mailto:ManiscalcoDA@state.gov)>  
Cc: WHA Congressional <[WHACongressional@state.gov](mailto:WHACongressional@state.gov)>, "Guest-Bakker, Janelle R" <[GuestBakkerJR@state.gov](mailto:GuestBakkerJR@state.gov)>, "Hom, Kathleen" <[HomK@state.gov](mailto:HomK@state.gov)>

Please see attached notes from the Canadian Embassy Nov 6 panel on the future of ANWR. The notes have been cleared by ENR who also attended the event.

Given the Congressional interest, copying H and WHA - Congressional.

## **Read-out of Embassy Canada Panel on the Future of ANWR:**

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On November 6, the Embassy of Canada hosted a panel titled the future of ANWR moderated by Canadian Embassy's Energy and Environment Counselor Rachel McCormick. Participants included Gwich'in Tribal Council President Bobbi-Jo Greenland Morgan, Vuntut Gwich'in Deputy Chief Esau Schafer, Gwich'in Council Member Joe Temchi, Larry Bagnell, Member of Parliament, Yukon, Pauline Frost, Minister of the Environment, Government of Yukon, and Basil van Havre, Director General, Domestic and International Biodiversity Policy, and Canadian Wildlife Service.

Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. David MacNaughton made welcoming remarks at the start of the panel and stressed that the Canadian Government along with the U.S. had committed in 1987 to conserve the Porcupine Caribou herd and protect the grounds from development. He restated the Prime Minister's priority to preserve the rights of the indigenous people and culture. Gwich'in Tribal Chief Bobbi-Jo Greenland Morgan spoke about the importance of the Caribou and the way of life and how tools to handle the hide are passed down from generation to generation. Vuntut Gwich'in Deputy Chief Esau Schafer reiterated the importance of the Caribou to the culture and the Gwich'in people.

From the Canadian Wildlife Service Basil Van Havre spoke of the migratory bird treaty with the U.S. that had served to conserve the biology of the area over the last 100 years. Van Havre also noted how little changes in the environment can have a big impact on the herd's migration such as a soup can. He explained how the Caribou who are calving need heavy food and a safe place away from predators, insects, noise and other activities. The Yukon Minister of Environment Pauline Frost credited the preservation of the 1002 area as supporting the Caribou population. Gwich'in Tribal Member Joe Timchi discussed how President Clinton had vetoed the bill to open the Arctic and Senator Jim Jeffords had crossed the aisle to vote against opening the Arctic. Timchi also discussed how the tribes tracked the population of the Caribou and the Canadian side was allowed to harvest if the Caribou numbered at 115,000 or more but not if the population was under 45,000.

The Yukon MP Larry Bagnell said that environmental conditions were impacting the herd and called for protections to the economy in the north, particularly as it was a form of subsistence for tribes on both sides of the border. There are fourteen communities with about 8-10,000 people total on the migratory path with four Gwich'in tribes from the Northwest Territories, three from the Yukon, and seven Gwich'in tribes in Alaska. The Caribou typically migrate from June 1 and calve until about August, but can also return as early as July.

The audience asked whether there was a way to ensure no permanent structure was set up during those months. Gwich'in members said they would be happy to discuss options. The panelists also raised the existing board as a means of discussing this issue and cited some of the absent seats as impeding the convening of the board. [Note: They believed that four co-chairs on the American side are not in their positions. The CAN desk will fact-check. End note] Another audience member (Gwich'in Tribe) said that she had met with many members of Congress to discuss concerns raised by the Gwich'in Tribes on the potential exploration. Another audience member (Gwich'in Tribe) gave an impassioned plea on behalf of the youth in the Gwich'in Tribe. Finally, an audience member asked about the terms of the Treaty.

McCormick replied that the Treaty creates a venue for notifying and consulting but does not direct party members to come to an agreement; it merely serves an opportunity for stakeholders to share information and coordinate.